Implant-supported overdenture solutions for improved patient quality of life

With an estimated 35 million people faced with edentulism\(^1\) and almost two-thirds of that number being fully edentulous, there is a great opportunity for clinicians to grow the implant portion of their dental practice.

There are a wide range of implant-supported solutions for these edentulous patients, especially with nearly 15 percent of this fully edentulous population having new dentures created on an annual basis.

The ongoing development both in product design and technology continues to drive implant-supported overdentures as a new standard of care for edentulous patients. These solutions, available in fixed and removable options, provide the stability needed for improved function and esthetics when compared with traditional dentures.

The treatment of these patients requires careful planning and evaluation to determine the ideal number of implants needed and the hard and soft tissue available, as well as consideration of the patient’s preference for either a fixed or removable solution. In addition to the flexibility of treatment options, versatility in product design is also important in allowing for simplified handing while ensuring overall quality.

Some advantages of a fixed restoration are increased stability for the patient (minimal anterior/posterior movement), esthetics, comfort and function that allows for improved phonetics as well as overall nutrition with the increased ability to eat a larger variety of food types.

An example of a fixed solution is the SmartFix™ Concept, available for ANKYLOS® and XiVE® implant systems. SmartFix is an effective and time-saving implant-prosthetic technique for immediate, screw-retained restorations in the upper and lower jaw. A minimum of four implants is required on the lower mandible, and six implants are typically recommended for the upper maxilla.

The SmartFix Concept allows for restorations on angled implants using either a 15- or 30-degree...
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angled ANKYLOS Balance Base or XIVE MP Abutment. These two-piece abutments provide the optimal design freedom for the superstructure in terms of height and diameter. The abutment components are pre-mounted in a short, flexible seating instrument for easier handling and placement of the abutment into the implant.

A similar level of stability, esthetics and comfort for the patient can be achieved with a removable solution. A removable prosthesis is also often a more cost-effective option and one that allows for patient removal and cleaning.

The ANKYLOS SynCone System was developed to simplify the immediate loading of overdentures on a minimum of four implants. It utilizes the telescopic crown technique, and can help to reduce costs and laboratory intensive procedures.

With the advent of digital dentistry for truly individualized, patient-specific solutions, the soon-to-be released ATLANTIS™ Conus abutment is a further development of this conus/telescopic concept with the added advantage of availability for all major implant systems.

Through continued advancements in product development and design, and improved techniques for the evaluation and treatment of edentulous patients, a growing number of patients can experience improved form, function, esthetics and overall improved quality of life with implant-supported overdentures.

For more information on other products and services from DENTSPLY Implants, visit the company at www.dentsplyimplants.com.

References
1) www.gotoapio.org/news/facts--figures/

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ATLANTIS Conus Abutments provide a stable fit, while allowing patients to remove the prosthesis for cleaning.